## REMARKS

The serial number for the cited copending patent application in the "Cross Reference to Related Applications" has been provided by this amendment. The status of that application remains unchanged at this time. For the Examiner's reference, the application has been published with the Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0060371.

In addition to the above mentioned amendment, pages 6 and 7 of the specification have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Further, the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the limitation recited in claim 12. Since the claims as originally filed constitute a part of the original disclosure, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Submitted herewith are new sheets of formal drawings to be substituted for the drawings originally filed with the patent application. Acceptance of the new formal drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10, 11, and 14 to 32 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3 to 5, 8, 10, 11 and 14 have been amended, claims 2, 9, 12, and13 have been canceled, and new claims 18 to 32 have been added. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to be dependent on new claim 23.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 4 has been amended to delete the phrase "prior to" and the step of "defining collaboration spaces". The step of "defining collaboration spaces" is now recited in independent claim 1. As amended, it is submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the ground that there is no support for the recited limitations in the specification. In response to this rejection, the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 of the specification has been amended to provide support for the recited limitations. However, with the cancellation of claim 12, the grounds for this rejection are now moot.

Claims 1 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,442,590 to Inala et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,133,895 to Lee et al. As to the claims currently pending in the application, this rejection is respectfully traversed for the reason that the combination of Inala et al. and Lee et al. fails to fairly teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The disclosed and claimed invention is a method and system for collaborative Web browsing which allows the collective knowledge and experience of an appropriate community to be leveraged during browser sessions. Figure 1 shows the architecture of the Collab-bar according to the invention. The Collab-bar increases the ability of finding the right people, discussion threads, and other tools, at the right times. When installed and configured, the Collab-bar runs within a browser, such as Internet Explorer, as a tool bar and an explorer bar combination, to bring collaborations (people, discussion groups, and tools) specific to the "current browsing context". The tool bar provides functionality for log-in and retrieval and management of contextual collaborations, while the explorer bar provides details of a specific collaboration. The Collab-bar has ability for some end-user configuration and customization, which is saved in the operating system (OS) registry, such as Windows registry.

There are five components in the Collab-bar: the Collab-bar Toolbar 10; the Collab-bar Explorer bar 12; a Javascript communication medium 14; the Collab-bar configuration 16; and the Collab-bar Handler, which is part of the contextual collaboration server 18. The Collab-bar Toolbar 10 is a COM (Component Object Model) band object which is contained by the Rebar Control that holds Internet Explorer's toolbars. It is implemented in HTML (HyperText Markup Language) using Microsoft Active Template Library (ATL). The Collab-bar explorer bar 12 is contained by Internet Explorer and implemented in HTML using ATL. Both the Collab-bar Toolbar 10 and the Collab-bar Explorer bar 12 are registered in the Windows registry. Communication between the Collab-bar 10 and the Collab-bar Explorer bar 12 and the contextual collaboration server 18 is facilitated by the Java Script communication medium 16. The contextual collaboration server 18 includes several modules which, in the preferred

embodiment, include a contextual collaboration module 181, a security module 182, a Lotus collaboration module 183, a WAS (Websphere Application Server) module 184, and a Collab-bar handler 185. The contextual collaboration module 181 is a context manager that manages relationships of collaboration elements, like people, topics, team rooms, discussions, documents, etc. The security module is a basic security element that identifies users and can classify those users as various role players in the system. The Lotus collaboration module 183 is used to integrate with collaboration modalities like team rooms, instant messaging, application sharing, etc. The IBM Websphere Application Server is a high-performance and scalable transaction engine for dynamic e-business applications. The WAS module 184 is the middleware component of the Websphere Application Server. The Collab-bar handler 185 generates the contents of the toolbar in a JSP (Java Server Page) at the WAS server.

The Collaboration Toolbar, shown in Figure 2, includes a pull down menu 23 that provides a list of CollabSpaces. When the down arrow button is pressed, the menu shows a list of contextual collaboration spaces accessible by the user, based on the current context. A Manage CollabSpaces button 24 invokes the collaboration space administrative console through which new collaboration spaces can be created and existing collaboration spaces can be edited. A second pull down menu 25 provides a recommended URL list. When the down button is pressed, a list of recommended URLs that are relevant to the current collaboration context is displayed. A Logon/Logoff button 26 is a toggle button used for logging onto and logging off from a collaboration space server.

The CollabSpace Explorer window is shown in Figure 3 and has two panes; a members pane 33 and a discussions pane 34. The members pane 33 lists the current collaborating members. Instant messaging and e-mail can be invoked for each of the current collaborating members. The discussions pane 34 lists passive discussion chains in the collaboration. A collaboration member can post and respond to discussions or create new discussion threads (CollabSpaces).

Figure 4 is a screen print of a Web page showing the Collaboration Toolbar 20 located just below the Internet Explorer Toolbar 40. Figure 5 shows

the Collab-bar Explorer bar component 30 overlying part of the Web page. The Collaboration Toolbar 20 provides dynamic collaboration elements that can be aggregated by perhaps some simple URL check or even simple data mining of the page content. The Collab-bar Explorer bar 30 adds collaboration elements that are part of the CollabSpace.

Figure 8 is a block diagram showing the architecture of the overall system, and this embodiment realizes the "miner" part, 806 and 814, of the architecture as the AnalyzerServlet 72 in Figure 7. In Figure 8, the augmented browser 80, comprising an Internet Explorer browser 801, a toolbar 802, an explorer bar 803, a monitor 804, and a classifier 805 is provided with a miner plug-in 806. The browser 801 populates with Web sites and notifies the monitor 804 when new documents arrive. The monitor 804, in turn, attempts to classify the newly loaded content using the classifier 805. The classifier 805 uses the content, URL or meta data associated with the loaded page and passes this information to the miner 806 in order to identify content. The monitor 804 then attempts to discover related CollabSpaces, URL links, and role players that might be helpful to the loaded content in the browser 801. Once the monitor 804 has completed classifying the content and collecting the related collaboration context, the monitor instructs the toolbar 802 and the explorer bar 803 to populate with the corresponding collaborative elements that are related to the current browsing context.

The collaboration server component 81 maintains collaborative content and allows for the collaborative Web browser to interact with the collaboration content. The collaboration server 81 can also have a miner 814 for more advanced mining. The view generator 813 is used to assemble together collaboration elements that are part of a collaboration context. The context manager 812 maintains relationships between collaboration elements and provides a mechanism to inference relationships between collaboration elements. The collaboration manager 811 also provides a mechanism to interact with various collaboration modalities, like instant messaging 82, team rooms 83, and e-meetings 84.

In contrast to the claimed system for collaborative Web browsing, Inala et al. provide a method and apparatus that enables real-time chat capability that is

URL-sensitive in real time such that individuals visiting a URL may be detected and offered an opportunity to engage in chat with other individuals visiting the same URL. The Inala et al. method and apparatus provide a means for participants to communicate with people of common interests as well as providing a new venue for advertisers to send ads and other material to consumers through third party ad streaming. The Examiner admits that Inala et al. do not disclose a collaboration toolbar including user UI components to logon/logoff and manage collaboration spaces. The Examiner cites the patent to Lee et al. for a teaching of this feature. However, what Lee et al. disclose is an integrated collaboration system and networked browser based application computer system in which communication is at least partially in a client-server language and in accordance with a template received by the computer system from the collaboration system.

The fact is that the combination of Inala et al. and Lee et al. does not teach the disclosed invention as described above. In order to clearly make this point, claims 1 and 11 have been amended and new independent claim 23 has been added. As amended, both claims 1 and 11 recite "defining collaboration spaces which comprise collaboration members and discussion chains", a concept not contemplated by either Inala et al. or Lee et al. According to claims 1 and 11, the "browsed content, URL (Uniform Resource Locator) and meta data [is mined] to determine related collaboration spaces". Again, nothing like this is contemplated by Inala et al. or Lee et al., taken singly or in combination. New claim 23 recites a system for collaborative Web browsing, generally as shown in Figure 8. This system includes an augmented browser and a collaboration server component. The augmented browser comprises an Internet browser, a collaboration toolbar (see Figure 2), a collaboration explorer bar (see Figure 3), a monitor, and a classifier provided with a miner plug-in, the Internet browser populates with Web sites and notifies the monitor when new documents arrive, the monitor, in turn, attempts to classify the newly loaded content using the classifier, the classifier uses the content, URL (Universal Resource Locator) or meta data associated with the loaded page and passes this information to the miner plug-in in order to identify content to determine page, topic or meta data intent, the monitor then attempts to

discover related collaboration spaces (CollabSpaces), URL links, and role players that might be helpful to the loaded content in the Internet browser, once the monitor has completed classifying the content and collecting the related collaboration context, the monitor instructs the toolbar and the explorer bar to populate with corresponding collaborative elements that are related to a current browsing context. The collaboration server component maintains collaborative content and allows for the collaborative Web browser to interact with the collaboration content, the collaboration server including a view generator used to assemble together collaboration elements that are part of a collaboration context and a context manager communicating with the collaboration toolbar, monitor and view generator and which maintains relationships between collaboration elements and provides a mechanism to inference relationships between collaboration elements.

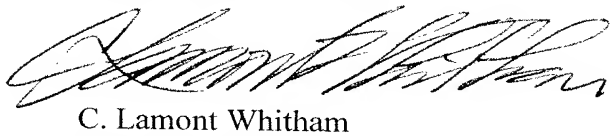
The new dependent claims and original claims 14 and 15 add further limitations to new independent claim 23 that further define over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1, 3 to 8, 10, 11 and 14 to 32 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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